REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated

May 9, 2003. Claims 1, 3, 5, 10-28, 33, 37-57, and 61-70 are presented for examination, of

which Claims 1, 10, 15, 19, 24, 28, 33, 44, 50, 55-57, 61, 65, 69, and 70 are in independent form.

Claims 58-60 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter

presented therein, and new Claims 61-70 have been added to provide Applicants with a more

complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 10, 13, 15, 19, 22, 24, 28, 33, 44, 47, 50, and 55-57

have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is

requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 10, 13, 19, 22, 28, 44, 47, 55, 56, and

58-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Cancellation of Claims 58-60 renders

their rejections moot. Claims 1, 10, 13, 19, 22, 28, 44, 47, 55, and 56 have been reviewed and

amended, as deemed necessary, with special attention to the points raised in section 4 of the

Office Action. Applicants submit that the rejections have been obviated and respectfully request

their withdrawal.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, 17-19, 21, 24, 28, 33,

44, 46, 50, and 55-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent

No. 5,872,569 (Salgado et al.); and that Claims 11, 13, 14, 16, 20, 22, 23, 25-27, 37-43, 45, 47-

49, and 51-54 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salgado et al. in view of

U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971 (Owa et al.). Cancellation of Claims 58-60 renders their rejections

moot. Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 10, 13, 15, 19, 24, 28, 33, 44, 50, 55-57, 61,

65, 69, and 70, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a device search system with a server unit and a client unit. The client unit includes first and second request means, recognition means, and output means. The first request means requests the server unit to execute a first search in accordance with a number of attributes in order to search for a desired device on a network. The recognition means recognizes whether result information obtained from the first search shows a presence or an absence of at least one device. The second request means requests the server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search. The second search searches for a desired device on the network in response to a recognition by the recognition means that the result information shows the absence of at least one device.

The output means outputs a search result from the first search when the recognition means recognizes that the result information shows the presence of at least one device. When the recognition means recognizes that the search result information shows the absence of at least one device, the output means outputs a search result from the second search, which shows, for each device completely meeting attributes used for the second search, that the device meets the attributes used for the second search. For each device incompletely meeting the attributes used for the second search, the search result from the second search shows at least one of the attributes that the device meets and a remainder of the attributes distinguishably from each other.

Salgado et al. relates to a document-processing system for processing a job in a network. As understood by Applicants, Salgado et al. teaches that a database is searched for a desired device by repeatedly changing the scope of the search. In the flowchart of Fig. 10, the scope of the search is limited or expanded in steps 230 and 232, and an additional search is executed based on the new scope of search in step 234. The number of found instances (devices) is informed to a user in step 236. If that number is acceptable to the user in step 238, then the devices are displayed in step 240.

Nothing has been found in Salgado et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a device search system with a server unit and a client unit, wherein the client unit includes "second request means for requesting said server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition by the recognition means that the result information shows the absence of at least one device," and "output means for outputting a search result from the first search when the recognition means recognizes that the result information shows the presence of at least one device, and for outputting a search result from the second search, which shows, for each device completely meeting attributes used for the second search, that the device meets the attributes used for the second search, and shows, for each device incompletely meeting the attributes used for the second search, at least one of the attributes that the device meets and a remainder of the attributes distinguishably from each other, when the recognition means recognizes that the search result information shows the absence of at least one device," as recited in Claim 1.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the limiting or expanding of the scope of a search, as taught in Salgado et al., is completely different from using a part of the attributes used for a previous (first) search for a subsequent (second) search, as claimed in Claim 1. Further, Salgado et al. is silent regarding the claimed output means.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Salgado et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Independent Claims 10, 15, 19, 24, 28, 33, 44, 50, 55-57, 61, 65, 69, and 70 include features similar to those discussed above, in which a part of the attributes used for a previous (first) search is used for a subsequent (second) search, and in which, for each device completely meeting attributes used for a second search, outputting a search result that shows the device meets the attributes used for the second search, and in which, for each device incompletely meeting the attributes used for the second search, outputting a search result that shows at least one of the attributes that the device meets and a remainder of the attributes distinguishably from each other. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, those claims are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.
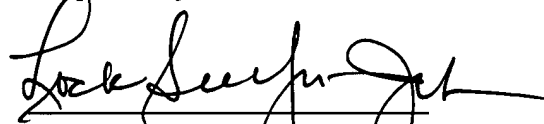
Owa et al. relates to a system for selecting an optimum printer for printing a document. As understood by Applicants, Owa et al. discloses a printer selection device that

classifies a priority as A (highest), B (preferable), or the like, and gives a high score to printers satisfying a B item among printers satisfying all A items. The printer with the highest score is selected as the optimum printer (see Fig. 6). Applicants respectfully submit that Owa et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Salgado et al. Therefore, the claims of the present application are submitted to be patentable over Salgado et al. and Owa et al., considered individually or in combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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